

# **National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) Enrollment Instructions for Commercial Hatcheries in PA**

National NPIP website: [www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org)

## **National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP)**

The PA Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services acts as the Official State Agency (OSA) for the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) and administers the program in PA in cooperation with USDA. The technical and management provisions of the NPIP have been developed jointly by industry members and state and federal officials. These criteria have established standards for the evaluation of poultry with respect to freedom from NPIP diseases. Enrollment in NPIP is voluntary but if enrolled, the standards of the program must be met.

## **Hatchery and Breeder Flocks**

The National Poultry Improvement Plan was established in the early 1930s to provide a cooperative industry, state, and federal program through which new diagnostic technology can be effectively applied to the improvement of poultry and poultry products throughout the country. The development of the NPIP was initiated to eliminate Pullorum Disease caused by *Salmonella pullorum*, which was prevalent in breeder flocks and could cause upwards of 80% mortality in baby poultry. The program was later extended to include testing and monitoring for *Salmonella typhoid*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *Mycoplasma synoviae*, *Mycoplasma meleagridis* (turkeys), and Avian Influenza.

Due to the success of the program, pullorum and typhoid are now rare in commercial poultry, but there may be some spots of infection remaining in backyard/hobby poultry flocks. Pennsylvania is one of many states which are classified as U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean, and to maintain this status, NPIP participants must be in compliance with the program, and there are requirements which PDA must have in place for those importing and exhibiting birds. There are also other requirements to import and exhibit poultry, including avian influenza testing and health certification.

### **1. Inspections:**

- a. NPIP hatchery inspections by PDA personnel are initially conducted after an application (9-5 form) for enrollment is received but before official enrollment.

Once enrolled, the hatchery is inspected at least annually for sanitation, biosecurity, flock testing, and record-keeping compliance by PDA inspectors. All supply flocks must meet the testing requirements for the hatchery to retain NPIP clean status and testing records must be available for the inspector. Additionally, breeder flocks supplying the participating hatchery will be inspected at least every 2 years to ensure compliance with NPIP standards. For smaller hatcheries with breeder flocks on site, the annual hatchery inspection will include the flock as well as the hatchery.

The inspection is to ensure that poultry pens and buildings for brooding or holding the incubators/hatchers are kept clean; other birds, pests, and animals are kept away from the participating birds; testing is done as required; the participant has an understanding of implementing a biosecurity plan; and the proper forms are used as necessary for testing (laboratory submission form), interstate movement (9-3 form), and recording new flock placement (9-2 form).

b. The records of all flocks maintained primarily for production of hatching eggs shall be examined and records shall include:

- \* VS Form 9–2, “Flock Selecting and Testing Report” (for breeder flock placement/PT testing);

- \* VS Form 9–3, “Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poult” (please note that there is an online method of creating and submitting 9-3 forms through the NPIP database);

- \* Set and hatch records;

- \* Egg receipts;

- \* Egg/chick orders or invoices; and

- \* Laboratory testing records.

c. Records shall be maintained for at least three years.

d. Requirements for a successful inspection are included in the NPIP Provisions and Program Standards.

## **2. Testing requirements for NPIP Pullorum-typhoid Clean (Subpart 145):**

a. All sample collection for testing must be performed by an accredited licensed veterinarian or a certified poultry technician (CPT) licensed in PA.

b. To qualify a hatchery as Pullorum-typhoid Clean, all poultry four months of age and older (or upon sexual maturity – if earlier – for game birds) in hatchery supply breeder flocks must be test-negative for Pullorum-typhoid (maximum of 300 birds tested). Flock testing should be performed soon after the birds reach test-eligible age. Once qualified, the flock must be tested annually for Pullorum/typhoid.

If mixed species are on the premises and participating in NPIP, waterfowl should be physically separated from gallinaceous birds (chickens, turkeys, game birds) and the biosecurity plan for the premises should address species separation. Additionally, any non-participating domesticated fowl and their eggs shall be kept separate from the NPIP flock or these birds shall also be properly tested to meet the same standards as the participating flock. Multiplier chicken flocks from clean primary flocks may be exempt from annual testing requirements (refer to the Provisions).

c. All birds tested for Pullorum-typhoid must be identified with an official state leg band provided by PDA unless tested with the rapid plate test. If the rapid plate test is used for

testing of breeder flocks, all reactors must immediately be banded with an official state leg band and a blood sample submitted immediately to an NPIP-approved laboratory for an official test.

d. If a Pullorum-typhoid suspect is identified on an official test at the lab, the flock is placed under quarantine. To end the quarantine, the suspect bird can be sampled by a PDA official 21-30 days after the first official test, and the blood tested at the lab, or the bird can be submitted within 10 days to the lab for testing.

The Pullorum-typhoid screening test can react with other salmonellas, so a clean environment for the birds is essential.

e. A hatchery must meet testing and inspection requirements with all flocks supplying eggs to the hatchery.

### **3. Testing requirements for NPIP Avian Influenza (AI) Clean (Subpart 145):**

a. Only breeder flocks in compliance with the Pullorum-typhoid Clean program are eligible for this program. A hatchery must meet testing and inspection requirements with all flocks supplying eggs to the hatchery.

b. Flocks must be tested as per the Provisions for the appropriate bird type (egg, meat, game, or waterfowl). The birds tested must be a random, representative sample of the flock and each pen or house must be represented. At sample collection, the entire flock must be observed for health issues.

c. If a suspect is identified at the lab, the flock is placed under quarantine pending confirmatory testing. If test results are confirmed, to end the quarantine, a minimum of 30 birds are swabbed for virus by PDA officials, and if the tests are negative the flock is released from quarantine.

### **4. Testing requirements for NPIP MG and MS Clean, and Salmonella Programs (Subpart 145):**

a. Only breeder flocks in compliance with the Pullorum-typhoid Clean program are eligible for these programs. A hatchery must meet testing and inspection requirements with all flocks supplying eggs to the hatchery.

b. Flocks enrolled in Subpart 145 must be tested as per the Provisions for the appropriate bird type and for the disease program in which the flock is enrolled.

### **5. Forms and other records:**

a. Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poults (9-3 form): NPIP participants moving product interstate (crossing state lines) must utilize a federal 9-3 form. The electronic 9-3 form is available through the NPIP database. Please request a user ID to gain access to

this database when you are ready to start shipping as NPIP certified. The information provided on your application will be entered into the NPIP database at PDA and will be pre-loaded onto the 9-3 forms for you. You can quickly insert the specific shipment information (shipment date, purchaser, and product) when you know that information, and the form is automatically sent to PDA for approval when you submit it. You can print a hard copy to send with the shipment. 9-3 forms should be received by the destination state before shipment, or within a few days after – so rapid processing is important.

b. If 9-3 forms are not used for all movements, other records must be kept for any birds or hatching eggs entering or leaving the farm (even if not moving across state lines) and include (1) date of movement in or out, (2) name, address, and phone number of person buying or selling, and (3) the number and type of poultry moving in or out. These records must be kept for three years and shall be made available to the NPIP State Inspector. 9-3 forms are only required for movement across state lines although customers within the state may request them for their records. The 9-3 forms may be used as a record of movements at inspection.

c. Flock Selecting and Testing Report (9-2 form): A 9-2 form must be sent in to PDA when a new breeder flock is placed so there is a record of that flock. This form is also used for flocks tested with the Pullorum rapid plate test.

d. Report of Hatcheries, Dealers, and Independent Flocks Participating in the NPIP (9-5 form): Used for enrollment and annual (summer) renewal.

## **6. Samplers:**

a. PDA provides training and licensing for certified poultry technicians (CPTs) to sample birds in PA. Anyone wishing to become a CPT in PA may contact Stacy Rakocy at 717-783-6897 or [srakocy@pa.gov](mailto:srakocy@pa.gov).

b. All CPTs must complete initial training and testing and must renew licenses every two years. See the CPT licensing link on the PDA website for training information and licensing requirements. CPT activities are monitored closely by PDA. PDA website link: [PA Dept. of Agriculture](#)

c. PA accredited, licensed veterinarians may also collect samples for program testing.

## **7. Adding new birds or hatching eggs:**

a. All hatching eggs hatched in the NPIP hatchery must come from a current NPIP flock with the same or higher status than the hatchery. An NPIP hatchery may not custom hatch eggs from a non-NPIP source.

b. Any birds added to the breeder flock from another source must come from a current NPIP flock or be Pullorum-typhoid tested negative before bringing into the flock. New additions should be isolated from the resident flock for several weeks to ensure good health before adding to the flock.

c. Find current NPIP participants in the national NPIP Directory:

<http://www.poultryimprovement.org/statesContent.cfm>

d. Any out-of-state NPIP birds or hatching eggs brought into PA must be accompanied by a NPIP 9-3 form and must meet all PA import requirements.

## **8. Biosecurity plan requirements:**

The NPIP committee voted in June of 2018 to require approved biosecurity plans for all breeder flocks with 5,000 or more birds. NPIP Program Standard E outlines the 14 items required in a biosecurity plan. Plans should be written in the order of the Program Standard for consistency, and then submitted to the PDA regional inspector for review. To assist producers in creating and implementing their plan, PDA inspectors offer a voluntary on-farm biosecurity plan risk assessment.

## **9. Enrollment procedures:**

Commercial hatcheries for egg-type chickens, meat-type chickens, turkeys, game birds, and waterfowl should enroll as a **“Hatchery”** with hatching egg supply flocks listed under that hatchery. Breeder flocks do not receive an NPIP number separate from the hatchery. Small hatcheries for exhibition-type birds which hatch only eggs from the flock located at the hatchery site may enroll as an “Independent” participant.

### **To enroll your hatchery/breeder flocks in NPIP:**

a. Contact Stacy Rakocy at PDA – [srakocy@pa.gov](mailto:srakocy@pa.gov) or 717-783-6897, or Dr. Nan Hanshaw – [nhanshaw@pa.gov](mailto:nhanshaw@pa.gov) or 717-783-6677. You will receive an NPIP 9-5 form (application) and instructions on filling out the form correctly. You will also be sent an NPIP packet of information, including the current version of the NPIP Provisions and Program Standards, which include the program requirements. Also included in the packet is an “NPIP Participant Agreement” which must be completed and returned in order to participate in the program.

b. Review the NPIP Provisions and Program Standards. Review your operation to ensure that you meet all sanitation and biosecurity requirements. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Nan Hanshaw at PDA.

c. If you do not already have a premise ID number for the hatchery and for each of the flock premises, register the premises with PDA. This can be done online through the PDA website or by contacting Stacy Rakocy for a registration form.

d. When you are familiar with the program requirements, have your required qualifying testing completed at an NPIP-approved laboratory. The Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory (PADLS) laboratories are approved by NPIP. Include the premise ID number on all laboratory submission forms (you will also include the NPIP number on submission forms).

after enrolled). Samples must be collected by a PA accredited licensed veterinarian or a certified poultry technician licensed in PA.

e. Submit a 9-2 form to PDA for each breeder flock so that there is a record that the flock exists. This is an NPIP requirement.

f. Send your completed application (9-5 form), NPIP “Participant Agreement”, the 9-2 flock forms, and the negative test reports to Dr. Nan Hanshaw at PDA. The application must be complete and accurate. Include the premise ID number on your application. Stock codes are available from the NPIP website and must be included on the application. Instructions on filling out the application are included with the form. The paperwork can be mailed to:

PDA BAHDS/Poultry  
Room 412  
2301 N Cameron St  
Harrisburg PA 17110.

It may also be scanned and emailed to [nhanshaw@pa.gov](mailto:nhanshaw@pa.gov) .

g. If a biosecurity plan is required for your operation (5,000 or more birds) develop a written plan following the 14 principles of Program Standard E, send it to your PDA regional veterinarian for approval, and consider having a voluntary biosecurity risk assessment done on your farm by the regional veterinarian during your initial NPIP inspection. A biosecurity plan is recommended even if not required by NPIP.

h. Call your regional PDA office to set up an initial inspection after your application has been submitted.

i. After the steps above have been successfully completed, each participant shall be assigned a permanent approval number by the USDA NPIP office. This number, prefaced by the numerical code of the State (23), will be the official approval number of the participant and should be used on each lab submission form, certificate, invoice, shipping label, or other document used by the participant in the sale of his or her products. The approval number shall be withdrawn when the participant no longer qualifies for participation in NPIP.

j. Annual renewal is required with PDA – renewal notices will be sent each June and must be returned with current information to PDA by August 1 to remain an active participant.